

ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-4, 20-24, and 26-28 (renumbered as 1-12) are allowed.
2. **REPLACE** Claim 27 with claim 27 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross marked) set forth below:

27. The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the operations further comprise, in response to input from the second user, displaying the annotation to the second user.

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention individually or in combination the limitation of providing an interface element allowing the first user to further associate the annotation with a second data object, whereby the annotation annotates both the first data object and the second data object, and wherein the first user is not authorized to view the second data object; providing an interface allowing a second user to view query results including the second data object, wherein the second user is authorized to view the second data object, as set forth in claims 1 and 20.
4. The closest prior art, Evans taken with Palomo describes an EMR system which provides healthcare providers with an intuitive interface that enables them to capture and analyze patient data quickly and efficiently. However, the prior art does not teach or suggest the limitations cited above as being free of any prior art when read in the claims as a whole.

CONCLUSION

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2168

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

7. For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199. The USPTO's official fax number is 571-272-8300.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Dune Ly, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Vo, can be reached on (571) 272-3642.

Application/Control Number: 10/664,537

Page 4

Art Unit: 2168

/Cheyne D Ly/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2168